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Tuesday, December 1, 2020

Total 24 pages



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Dysart earmarks land on Wallings Road for affordable housing development

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dysart et al Council last week agreed to provide around 2.7 acres of town-owned land to a local organization that is actively working to bring more affordable housing options to the community.

At its most recent meeting on Nov. 24, Dysart's elected officials voted unanimously to dedicate the land, located on Wallings Road, to local non-profit Places for People. The charitable organization has more than a decade's worth of history in Haliburton County, working to create and manage "quality housing" for low and moderate-income renters across the community, according to its mission statement. Places for People currently owns and manages seven units across the county.

Area resident Jody Curry, a long-time volunteer with Places for People, expressed her excitement over this new partnership when speaking with Dysart council last week. She said this new development, once complete, would go a long way to alleviating the issues many people in our community face when it comes to securing affordable housing.

"We've been searching for a property like this for two years now. We have done a lot of homework, and for us, this is just the perfect fit," Curry said. "We can't say enough things about this piece of prop-

The land in question is currently vacant, located directly beside the school bus terminal on Wallings Road. While there have

yet been no details regarding the number of units Places for People hopes to construct on the site, the organization has confirmed it will be made up of one and two bedroom apartments.

The project will be partially funded through a soon to be announced community bonds financing program, which the organization hopes to launch in the spring of 2021. This, in essence, will allow local residents to invest in the improvement of their own community, Curry says.

"This is a new way of raising money, one that the community is directly involved with," Curry said. "This will be a big boon, not only for us, but for the community in general to learn about this

alternate source of funding."

Mayor Andrea Roberts, Deputy Mayor
Pat Kennedy and Ward 2 Coun. Larry Clarke have spent a considerable amount of time in recent months working with the leadership team at Places for People to come up with a proposal to bring to the rest of council. Kennedy says the municipality's infrastructure committee identified housing as a "major issue" in 2019, and that council collectively were committed to moving forward on this project to help bridge gaps that currently exist in the community.

While the team at Places for People will now get to work on a solid proposal for the site, Curry says all the key players for a potential build are already in place. Over the past six months the organization has assembled a design team that includes an architect, engineer, and multiple planning consultants.

see DYSART page 3



O Christmas Tree!

Mom Angelica Ingram and sister Abigail watch on as Evangeline adds the very first Christmas decoration to the town tree, located outside the Village Barn on Highland St. The Haliburton & District Lions Club and Haliburton Village Business Improvement Area are encouraging local residents to bring their favourite Christmas ornament and help decorate the tree this festive season. For the full story, see Page 4./MIKE BAKER Staff



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Buckslide Blues Cruise wins best radio show

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

Five years ago, Patrick Monaghan might not have pictured himself sitting in his living room, decked out in Canoe FM swag, a popular radio host with a blues show nominated as one of the best in the country.

An hour or so into the National Campus and Community Radio Association's first ever digital awards gala celebrating the 2020 Community Radio Awards in Broadcast and Online on Nov. 6, an envelope was opened and Monaghan heard his name called when his Buckslide Blues Cruise program took the award for Best Jazz or Blues Music Show.

"I was quite thrilled to get it," said Monaghan. "Honoured to even be considered and thrilled to win the

Buckslide Blues Cruise, which Monaghan began hosting on Canoe FM in January 2016 is described as being "two hours of rocking blues with a tip of the hat to the pioneers and legends of the past," or as Monaghan himself describes it, "there's new and old, definitely off the beaten path and everything from Leadbelly to Led Zeppelin's in the mix." The show is broadcast on Canoe FM on Tuesday evenings – right after radio bingo – from 7 to 9 p.m. and has a big following of listeners who tune in by radio or online. Monaghan notes that within that listener base, he has a lot of converts to the blues.

He's been listening to the blues himself for almost 50 years, although he didn't always recognize that he was drawn to that genre.

"I was interested in that kind of music before I realized what it was called," he said. "I listened, when I think about the rock music that I listened to in the early '70s, it was all blues-based, whether it be ZZ Top or Ten Years After or early Rolling Stones, when I look back it was all blues-based. As Muddy Waters said, the blues had a baby and they named it rock and roll."

That interest led to an expertise in the music that gave him something to focus on when he joined the radio station's team of volunteer hosts and announcers after being discovered at the farmers' market.

"I ran Buckslide Dog Treats for five years, and I would be at the farmers' markets, and different people from Canoe FM would stop by the farmers' market and say, you've got a good radio voice, you should come and do a voice test," said Monaghan. "That went on for a few years before I did it. They give you a few paragraphs to read, you read it, and if you don't sound like Pee-wee Herman you probably can be on the air. They want you to do a voice test so they know you're not going to sound like finger nails on a chalkboard."

Monaghan, with experience in public speaking, passed the test. But at first, he wasn't completely comfortable in

"At first, it was a challenge to get on the air," he said. "Once I get started, I'm all right. It's just the anticipation. I had no background at all ... The first little while, it was very shaky. If I listen to a show from five years ago and I listen to a show now, they're very different. My confidence and relaxation. I don't like making mistakes but I don't sweat it now, like I used to. You can't get it back,

Prior to passing the torch, then-blues show host Lee MacLean stayed with Monaghan for the show a few nights, Monaghan said, "and then they cut me loose and I was on my own."

He credits her help, and that of Dave Kirkland, whose show Tuesday Night Sessions airs after the Buckslide Blues Cruise, for helping him find his way.

"One evening after I'd been there for a couple of





Patrick Monaghan, decked out in Canoe FM clothing, gives a thumbs up from the studio where he broadcasts the Buckslide Blues Cruise on Tuesday nights. The show was awarded Best Jazz or Blues Music Show by the National Campus and Community Radio Association in November. / Submitted photo

months, I used to hang around for a couple of minutes, look at the board and see what [Kirkland] was doing. One night I asked him, do you mind if I hang around for awhile and try to get some tips from what you're doing he has about 40 years in the business. He said to me, better yet, get your butt in that chair. So I sat in the chair and I produced his show for the next two and a half years, with his training and guidance, by all means. The way I like to say it is, Lee McLean showed me how the buttons work, and Kirkland showed me how to work the buttons."

On average, Monaghan said he spends about five hours preparing for the weekly two-hour show. He puts together the playlist for the evening, researches each song that will be played, prepares for and conducts inter-

views, and puts the show together.
"I'm old-school, so I write it all out by hand and I find I learn better that way," he said. "The same goes for my shows, I don't pick from a list, I have a CD rack with about 1,000 CDs on it, and I stand in front of the rack the way I used to pull albums for a house party.'

He also takes to the road to see shows – one weekend last year in June, he was in Rochester, New York, with Downchild Blues Band, in Oshawa the next night with the B&B Blues Band, and then the next day, MCing at the Stratford Blues and Ribfest.

"I put 1,500 kilometres on in about three days," said Monaghan. "To be there, and enjoy it, and I love it."

It's a lot of work to organize a show, and promote it in the enthusiastic way he does, but Monaghan said he thinks he could do a three hour program - he always seems to run out of time at the end of the two hours, and said there's never enough time for all of his songs. Mentally, he sometimes feels exhausted by the end of longer stints in the studio though. A few weeks ago he told his listeners he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer about 14 months ago, but that the show would go on.

That's two hours a week that I'm not sick," he said. "When I hit that button and that board lights up, I'm not sick. It gives me energy, it takes me away from any of the anxiety that comes along with the situation, for two hours I'm good. It's an outlet, it takes me away from what I'm dealing with."

When he got his diagnosis, and had a related surgery, the musicians he has followed and promoted for years recognized his effort and gave back, putting on a benefit for him in Wasaga Beach that raised about \$5,000 for the expenses incurred due to illness. Crowbar, Cheryl Lescom, B&B Blues Band and Chuck Jackson were among the performers who took part in A Bluesman's Concert and Dance benefit last November.

"I can talk about it now, but I couldn't do it without tears in my eyes before," he said.

The diagnosis, and the pandemic, has slowed down some of the promoting work Monaghan has been involved in, but instead he has taken to the airwaves ensuring the musicians who are suffering without live concerts can still be heard.

"I've been doing my very best throughout this virus to promote the musicians that are able to play live, and CDs," he said. "Now that they have the time they've been recording music they've set aside for quite some time. Once they record it they have no way to promote it. Since the virus I play a lot more new music. Muddy Waters has been dead for 40 years so it doesn't matter to him if I play his music ... I'm trying to help out where I

The physical Award for Best Jazz or Blues Music Show from the NCRA was created by a Toronto artist who hand-paints and hand binds notebooks, with each bespoke notebook's colour choices being inspired by the

"We chose a notebook because during the pandemic, and the lock-downs, we wanted to recognize the reality we are living in this year, but also celebrate the opportunity granted to us of time for creative pursuits," said Luke Smith, NCRA director of learning and development. "We hope that the award winners will see the notebooks as an opportunity to explore their creative side as they continue to create incredible programming.

Monaghan thanks everyone who has given him the opportunity he has had at Canoe FM, which has led to an award that celebrates his commitment and gusto, passion for learning, appreciation for the music he wants so much to share with listeners, and for the musicians who create it.

This has been my passion, by all means, it's my joy, there's no question about that," he said.

The Buckslide Blues Cruise airs from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday evenings on Canoe FM, 100.9 on the radio, or online at canoefm.com.





Raising money and spirits through HHSS online auction

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

High school students are welcoming the public to participate in an online auction that will help to raise the spirits of this year's graduating students, who have endured the challenges of attending school with the constraints of the corona-

With the support of local businesses, the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Prom Committee is hosting an online auction that includes 12 gift baskets, starting with one a day for 12 days through its Facebook page www.facebook.com/hhssprom2021/) starting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Co-chairpersons of the committee Megan Klose and Daniella Meraw said this initiative will help to bring some light at a time of such darkness.

"I know the 2020 grads felt a lot of sadness over everything of theirs being cancelled and we know that we can't have that [too], like a real prom, so we wanted to still have something leaving with positivity from our high school. We don't want the same as last year's class," Meraw

The prom committee chairpersons said the money will enable the purchase of special keepsakes for graduating peers. Among the things they're considering are a set of graduating class sweaters and a premium prom package for anyone who

The Grade 12 students credited this idea to Terri Mathews-Carl, co-owner of the Rhubarb Restaurant,'who answered their questions related to holding their own auction based on what she has done

In past years, fundraising was often conducted internally at the school, Klose said, but with the constraints of the pandemic the support of the community has been necessitated.

"We really wanted to involve the community and not just fundraise from



The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Prom Committee co-chairpersons Daniella Meraw, from left at front, Megan Klose and members Logan Heaven, from left at back, and Emma Mitchell invite the public to participate in their silent auction, starting on Dec. 1. Auction items will be posted daily on their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ hhssprom2021). /DARREN LUM Staff

our school. So, yeah, especially during COVID, it's important to connect our school to the community in ways we really can't do otherwise during a pandemic," Klose said.

The co-chairpersons have been happy with the support that has been displayed online for the auction in the days leading up to the start and appreciated the way the businesses have responded, despite the financial challenges threatening the economy.

"We were nervous to ask because of a pandemic and we know especially in our small community it's been challenging for everyone, but the response has been amazing. So many businesses have been willing to donate and help us out and excited to donate," she said.

The list of businesses that have donated includes the Pharmasave Dorset Village

Pharmacy, McKeck's Tap and Grill in Haliburton, the Rhubarb Restaurant in Carnarvon, and Artech Studios in Tory

Once an item is posted anyone can make a bid in the comments related to the

There will be a minimum bid to start and subsequent bids will be in increments of \$5 or \$10 depending on the item. By the end of the 48-hour bidding period the item will be won and then picked up at the school. Multiple items will be availa-

For each day of the 12 days the silent auction runs there will be a different gift basket filled with various items related to different themes, such as "summer camping, arts and crafts, from the heart of Haliburton, date night and self-care."

Klose said getting to do this for her

graduating peers has a value that fulfills

"It's really special we get to plan something and help other people plan something. I know a lot of people have just been thinking 'there's a pandemic there's nothing we can do about it.' But I think being able to really do something about it and make it a positive thing is really awesome for us," she said.

Working on this effort has been therapeutic for Klose, Meraw and the other committee members, who are Logan Heaven and Emma Mitchell.

"A lot of us are finding ways to make it much more enjoyable. Even by just simply planning things at our meetings, we have so much enthusiasm for making things much better than they are right now in reality," Meraw said. With COVID-19 protocols in place at

the school, the four members of the prom committee have had to meet virtually through an online venue. In September, when it was warmer, the group met outside and socially distanced

The group work the past few months has reclaimed what was lost when the pandemic hit Ontario and left students learning from home alone online.

"Just being able to connect with our friends this other way is so special being with our prom committee. When it shut down in March, I felt we were all really isolated and didn't get to talk to anyone and work together to create something, so I think it's really special and helping all of our mental health to be in a group working towards a goal," Klose said.

She adds the committee believes their efforts will contribute to a sense of unity and bring about a feeling of positive

We all need to come together during these hard times and not separate ourselves due to any views we have. Just to come together and celebrate the happiness that we have and obviously it will be a different holiday season so just doing what we can do to spread joy and happiness," she said.

Dysart council earmarks Wallings Rd. site for future development

from page 1

planning consultants.

We are aware of what it's going to take to develop this property. For two years we have been looking at different places, had some disappointments, but we have never stopped [pushing forward]," Curry said. "We already have draft plans and ideas for this type of development, but we are also aware that studies [we carry out] during the planning process will inform us of the best way to develop the prop-

She continued, "We have no desire to overbuild. We believe everybody needs a bit of green space in their lives. ... As well, we are all about affordable housing. If [the community's mid- to low-incomefamilies] can't afford it, there's no point in

Curry recognized there are likely to be some stumbling blocks her organization will have to overcome in the weeks and months ahead, speaking directly to challenges relating to regulations around water supply, but noted she and her team will work alongside Dysart staff to ensure all the necessary prerequisites for development are met.

Mayor Roberts expressed her belief that this development was "very exciting news" for Dysart, Places for People and Haliburton County.



Dysart et al council has dedicated a 2.7 acre parcel of land on Wallings Road to local nonprofit Places for People as part of an initiative to bring more affordable housing options to the community, /MIKE BAKER Staff

"We don't have a lot of buildable properties, but right away [our infrastructure committee] identified this lot as an ideal

place for some housing. This is really exciting news that we're going to be partnering with Places for People and moving

forward with this. We all have a desire to make sure there is affordable housing, and rental options for people to live, and live safely, comfortably and with dignity in our community," Mayor Roberts said.

Coun. Clarke believes this potential development could also provide a much-needed boost to the local business sector.

"We've been very stressed up here [housing wise] with COVID-19, and the migration of people substantially reduced the rental [market] and available housing for people to come in and do jobs. Talk to any business in town - there's no place for them to be able to house staff even if they wanted to hire someone,' Coun. Clarke said. "This is a critical ailment for this community, and I couldn't be more pleased that [Places for People have] taken on this initiative to support our community

After Council voted in favour of essentially donating the land towards this development, Mayor Roberts stated the next step would be to form a subcommittee that would see herself, Deputy Mayor Kennedy, Coun. Clarke and municipal staff work alongside representatives from Places for People to create an official memorandum of understanding between the two parties, and move forward on tackling issues such as land rezoning, water agreements and planning proposals together.

BIA, Lions Club calling on community to help decorate downtown Christmas tree

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Two local organizations are encouraging area residents to help keep the Christmas spirit alive in Haliburton this festive season.

The Haliburton and District Lions Club is teaming up with the Haliburton Village Business Improvement Area (BIA) to host an impromptu month-long Christmas tree decoration party on Highland St. From now until Dec. 25, local residents are invited to bring their favourite Christmas ornament and hang it on the town tree, located outside the Village Barn on Highland Street.

The event has been put forward as a way for people to tap into the Christmas magic a little differently this year, with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic forcing popular celebrations such as the Santa Claus parade and Festival of Trees to be cancelled.

"It's been a tough year, and I think people are looking for a sense of festivity and community with the Christmas season upon us," said Angelica Ingram, administrator of the Haliburton BIA. "Our town is small, and we do a lot of communityoriented things, and people are starting to notice the absence of that."

She added, "We're trying to do something here to make people feel connected.

We're trying to encourage people to be a part of the community. I think people are tired of being isolated, and just tired of not seeing their neighbours, friends and family on the main street."

With the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit reporting only four active COVID-19 cases in the area, and the region remaining in the 'Green' zone of the Ontario government's coronavirus response framework, Ingram believes local residents can feel safe participating in the event providing they follow the recognized safety protocols and practice social distancing.

The tree, donated by local businessman

Kim Emmerson and set up by volunteer members of the Dysart Fire Department last week, already boasts about a half dozen Christmas decorations, although there's room for much more says Jim Frost, a long-time member of the local

Having spent several years organizing the town's Santa Claus parade, Jim was determined to find another way to celebrate the Christmas season in style. In the end, it was his wife Marilyn who came up with the idea to decorate the town tree.

"I saw something on TV one day, where another community was doing something similar and I thought 'what a great idea', Marilyn said. "I've always felt that tree should have something else on it. This is now a great way to get people into town, and get kids involved."



Haliburton & District Lions Club members Marilyn and Jim Frost take a moment to help decorate the town Christmas tree, located on Highland St., on Monday, Nov. 30. /MIKE





Dysart agrees to new contract conditions with HCSA

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dysart et al council has signed off on a memorandum of understanding that will allow the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HCSA) to operate on the local trail this winter season, providing the organization comes to a separate agreement with the principal landowners along the site.

In what turned out to be a hearty debate amongst council members, a recorded vote saw a majority of the municipality's elected officials approve the HCSA's request to amend an existing agreement that will, essentially, transfer a portion of the off-season liability from the snowmobile club to the town should an accident occur. Ward 4 Coun. John Smith was the sole vote against the request.

He pointed to issues that Dysart's legal counsel and insurance provider had with the wording of the new agreement as the main reason he voted to turn the application down.

"I'm not trying to prohibit snowmobiling, but as our solicitor has pointed out, and as our insurance company has pointed out, these proposed changes put forth by the Ontario Federation of Snow-mobile Clubs, (and presented by local associations), are transferring risk from snowmobiling clubs to municipalities. That is liability from snowmobilers onto taxpayers," Coun. Smith said.

He continued, "For us to proceed with this when our solicitor has written us a letter, and our insurance company have written a letter expressing their concerns over the agreement, and for us to adopt our own casual interpretation of those risks ... It's a concern, for me, that we would appear to dismiss these risks so

Earlier in the meeting, Jeff Iles, Dysart's director of planning and land information, informed council that the town's lawyer said it was "not inherently a negative thing" that the snowmobile association was looking to limit its responsibility in the event an injury or damages occur during the late spring, summer and early months of fall, when there's no snow on the ground.

Mayor Andrea Roberts said she understands completely why the snowmobile club would want to initiate such a change.



"Why would the snowmobile club want to be responsible if somebody is trespassing on property, or a tree falls, or somebody is hiking on (the trail). I see why they're asking for this change," Mayor Roberts said.

Coun. Smith did not concur with the mayor's opinion, pointing to other municipalities and organizations, such as the United Counties of Prescott and Russell, and the Grand River Conservation Authority, who have refused to sign off on their own snowmobile club's requests.

"I remain supportive of snowmobiling in general, but to take these risks on behalf of our taxpayers in the face of professional advice to the contrary... We're being too casual about this. We need to better understand the potential consequences of putting in place an agreement like this prior to passing the motion that is before us.

While council voted in favour of the new agreement, they did include a clause that staff will continue to consult with legal representation and their insurance company on this file moving forward. It was suggested, by Ward 2 Coun. Larry Clarke, that the municipality simply up their liability coverage with their insurer to cover any potential lawsuit.

"It may cost us a few extra dollars, but snowmobile associations bring huge amounts of business to this community, which is so important for our economic health," Coun. Clarke stated.

Although Dysart council signed off on the agreement, the HCSA will still need to negotiate an agreement with Fleming College before its members can use the trail. Should council, at a future date, decide it wants to go back on this agreement, it will need to provide 60 days written notice to both the HCSA and Fleming College

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Haliburton County's COVID-19 update

Monday's update by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit reported no new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County. One previously reported case in the county has been transferred to another health unit. Currently there is one local case that is not resolved, with 26 cases resolved and six current high-risk contacts. /Screenshot from HKPRDHU website



the Rotary Christmas Party on December 5th and posted on our social media pages.

Participate for a chance to win prizes!



Christmas Challenge

Annual Join the Challenge and help us to make a difference

This year is going to be a challenge for everyone as we adapt to the Covid-19 protocols.

Even though you will likely not be having your annual staff party you can still be a part of The Haliburton County Home Builders' Christmas Challenge.



STEP 1:

Call in advance to the Home Builders Office 457-6901, Members of the Home Builders Association will pick up your gifts and deliver them to the workshops in Haliburton, Minden & Wilberforce. Porch pick up & delivery will be available for all.

Large or small, each gift will help fill the much-needed Christmas hampers distributed by the 4C's in Haliburton, Minden Community Food Bank and The Central Food Network.





REMEMBER to make the most of the Challenge have your gifts ready for pick up BEFORE December 10th. Early delivery to the workshops means the elves have enough time to prepare for gifts for Covid and Christmas.

This is the 25th anniversary of the Christmas Challenge. Whether this is the first year you have taken the challenge or the 25th year all gifts are needed. If you aren't sure what to collect simply gather local gift certificates.

A value of \$15.00 each makes it easy to top up gifts for families who have teenagers.

Call 705-457-6901

for more information and to book your gift pick up.

DAVID ZILSTRA,

points of view



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Well hello there Haliburton

T'S 2 A.M. on the morning of my first real production day with the *Echo*. Despite already writing a dozen versions of this introductory piece, here I am, with a deadline fast approaching, still umming and ahing about what to

You only get the one chance to make a good first impression, right? Well, here goes nothing. Take 13. Or 14... Honestly, I've lost count

I come to Haliburton after almost

a decade working as a reporter and editor for a handful of publications across Ontario and Alberta. Most recently, I ran the newsrooms of the Orangeville Citizen, Caledon Citizen and Shelburne Free Press. Looking back over my career, I've had a lot of fun thus far. I still find it incredible that I get paid to go out into a community and listen to people's stories. Of

course, there's more to the job, but that's the most important one. Tapping into the pulse of your community and sharing its tales.

Before I can get started on all of that, though, I guess I should share my story. Or at least part of it.

Born and raised in Manchester, England, I moved to Canada at the ripe old age of 16. Living with my grandparents, I treated my first couple of years as something of an extended vacation. Sure, I enrolled in high school, playing out my grade 11 and 12 years at IE Weldon Secondary School in nearby Lindsay, but it was a far cry from the strict, robust schooling system I was used to back home. Think Potions class with Professor Snape... It's

a lot closer to the truth than you'd think.

I actually visited Haliburton on several occasions during those youthful years, as part of Weldon's men's soccer team. I got to know the four walls of the local Subway quite well during that period – now I hope to extend that to the wider community as I embark on this new adventure as editor of the *Echo*.

I have a tremendous job in front of me, of that I am well aware. The Echo has a great reputation, not

only here in Ontario, but across Canada. As a serial winner of both provincial and national awards, the Echo is a publication that demands excellence and I'm incredibly excited to join its talented team of journalists.

I've truly loved what I've seen from this community in my first week here in town. My wife and I are in that stage of our lives

where we're really looking to lay down some roots, and I can think of no better place to do so than Hali-

I'm looking forward to meeting as many people as possible over the coming weeks and months at a safe social distance, of course. Should you wish to reach out with a news tip, a helpful history brief of the town, or a good, old-fashioned chat about how the Toronto Maple Leafs are absolutely, positively going to break their decades long hoodoo and finally win a Stanley Cup this coming season, shoot me an email at mike@haliburtonpress. com, or give me a call at 705-457-1037 ext. 39. I will always make time for the people of this community.



mike

baker

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Fog over Burdock Lake

by Darren Lum

Highland Wood and Hyland Crest love

REETINGS READERS of this column! I hope you are well and finding ways to stay connected, safe and focused on being positive and hopeful in these unique times. We all inspire, support and remind each other that there are lots of good things happening and together we will get through these times. I am very happy to say that I am receiving short and long

stories and even some poems from people who are sharing the goodness, beauty and love that they are noticing around them. Big thanks to Margie Lawrence and her bright and beautiful mother Ruth who sent this story along to me!

My mum Ruth and I enjoyed reading Lynda Shadbolt's recent article in the Echo, about taking

note of good things that are happening, amidst this time of uncertainty and anxiety due to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ruth, who is almost 90, is a resident at Highland Wood Long Term Care Home in Haliburton. She has a computer in her room which helps her to keep in touch with family and friends through emails and Skype visits. It's Ruth's telephone, her computer, and her weekly newspapers, she says that help to keep her connected to the world outside. It's the staff at Highland Wood however, who help Ruth to feel connected inside her residence.

Like the saying, "it takes a village to raise a child," this is similar to the concept that it takes a village of

dedicated staff to care for our family members living at Highland Wood. There's the nurses and resident doctor, the PSWs and physiotherapist, the kitchen/food service staff, the activities staff who offer recreational programs, the maintenance, laundry and cleaning staff, and the administration: they all play a role together in order to provide a cooperative approach to create a loving, safe and

enriching environment. And there's our community at large, like the Residents Council who serve as advocates. Volunteers continue to find ways to be supportive, like weekly church services which are offered virtually now to the residents.



time outside throughout the warmer seasons. This includes participating in outdoor programs and watching many birds, chipmunks and squir-

rels. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been no cases of the coronavirus at Highland Wood or its sister facility, Hyland Crest in Minden. The staff at both facilities have upped their game in order to help keep the residents safe. While coping with the restrictions of visitors including family members, the staff have worked hard to create a safe and kind environment. I count my lucky stars every day, knowing that my mum is cared for so well at Highland Wood.



lynda shadbolt

points of view

No cause for alarm

THINK EVERYONE has a dream job – and last week I learned about mine. Unfortunately, it no longer

That's sad too, because I would have loved to make my living as a "knocker-upper."

For those who don't know anything about what a knocker-upper does, permit me to enlighten you.

In Victorian England, prior to the advent of the alarm clock, people hired knocker-uppers to wake them up. And, as the name suggests, they did it in a fun way too.

You see, a knocker-upper would go to the client's home and use a pea shooter to launch peas at the bedroom window until the person signaled with a wave that they were awake. Or with a finger that you were at the wrong bedroom window.

As soon as I heard about it, I knew this was the job I was meant to do.

For the trade combined all the things I excel at – peashooting, getting up early, and being exceedingly annoy-

ing every morning. Plus, I'm punctual. Ask anyone I've ever gone camping with.

If it were still a thing, it would provide me a more secure career

In my current profession as a freelance writer, I have to compete for work with bloggers, internet influencers, canned copy, more talented freelance writers and all those people who write letters complaining about my column. Conversely, all a knocker-upper has to compete against is roosters. And, believe

me, my pea-shooter would make short work of that. But, alas, that career path is no longer relevant in this

"technologically advanced" era.

steve

galea

These days, it seems we no longer care about attention to detail, craftsmanship and small family-run businesses. Instead, we use our cellphones, alarm clocks, whiny pets or anxieties to wake us up from a sound sleep every morning. Which is fine, but where does that leave those of us who dream of one day living a better life?

And what happens when all that technology falls apart, leaving us with nothing to be anxious about? How will we wake up then?

Frankly, İ think letting this profession die was not a wise decision at all.

Also, wouldn't you like to know that, if someone is lurking outside your bedroom window with a pea shooter early in the morning, at least it's a professional rather than some rank amateur?

If the trade were to make a revival, I think it is fair to say knocker-uppering would have to be updated for the times. After all, a mere pea tapping against a bedroom window is not enough to wake any millennial up. Also, good luck hitting a 30th floor bedroom window with a

Frankly, if I were to take up the mantle of the village knocker-upper (this would be my second village-related title) I would only use pea shooters to initiate the wake up call and then quickly escalate to slingshots, followed by boulder throwing catapults and, if that didn't work, I'd let my eight-month-old English springer spaniel tell you what she thought of anyone who sleeps in past 5 a.m. Don't fret though, the pup would only be a last resort.

The point is I'd give an iron-clad guarantee that you would not sleep in at all. Unless, I suppose you left your window open – in which case you would probably sleep the sleep of the dead through all my efforts.

Which is to say, you'd rest in peas.



pic of the past

ctured above, a view of Head Lake from Highland Street in the early 1900s. Much has changed in the area in the 100 years since. Photo taken from the album of Doreen Rae. Mill and caboose are shown.

letters to the editor

Never waste a good crisis

To the Editor,

There is an old adage that goes way back in time and that has been used by political leaders of all stripes. That adage is, "never waste a good crisis." The basic premise is that in times of crisis the public's attention is almost totally focused on the crisis at hand, and a government in power can often push through legislation that would normally get much more scrutiny and public attention/outcry, were it not for the singular focus on

the given crisis. War is a good example of this. Our current crisis is, of course, COVID-19. Our provincial government under Premier Doug Ford has made good use of this technique in 2020 largely through omnibus bills where legislation is 'hidden', often under the guise of dealing with the

The passing of bills like Bill 197, greatly weaken the Environmental Assessment Act with deregulation that reflects neither the values nor longterm interests of Ontarians. Even the way it was enacted is under scrutiny because its passing did not comply with current notice/comment requirements under the Ontario Environmental Bill of

As well, Bill 229 severely curtails the role of

Conservation Authorities threatening Ontario wetlands, woodlands and farmlands. This has great potential to benefit corporations, executives and cronies. The Ford government has also banned the use of ranked balloting by municipalities in elections, should they choose to do so.

Most recently, Bill 218 was forced through the legislature at lightning speed, and was made retroactive to March 17, 2020 making it virtually impossible for residents and families to prove "gross neglect" that has occurred and that may continue to occur in our long-term care and retirement homes. These for-profit corporations such as Revera, will not be held accountable and responsible for the injustice suffered and the lives lost by our seniors. Only 15 of 58 people were allowed last week to express their concerns before the Standing Committee of the Legislature.

In short, I am one constituent who does not feel well represented by our premier or by our MPP. That is after all their job. As constituents, we should consider contacting our MPP and asking her some serious questions.

> Greg J. Roe Concerned Citizens of Haliburton County info@concernedcitizenshc.ca



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to mike@haliburtonpress.com

TLDSB equity task force lifts off

JENN WATT

Editor

The following are brief reports of items discussed at the board of trustees meeting of Trillium Lakelands District School Board on Nov. 24.

The school board has taken the first necessary steps to get their equity task force off the ground, with plans to conduct a student and staff census and hire third-party consultants to create policies and procedures ensuring a safe and inclusive learning and working environment.

Dave Golden, superintendent of learning, gave context to the initiative, pointing out in his report that "in order to provide meaningful educational experiences and opportunities to our students, we must understand the culture, beliefs, and identities of our students, and embed into our practices a lens of equity, high student achievement and well-being.

School boards must also comply with provincial standards on identifying and monitoring systemic racism by Jan. 1, 2023 under the Anti-Racism Act.

The task force will consult stakeholders about current programs and practices, gather information on student populations and area communities, locate barriers hindering success, inclusion and wellbeing, and create programs and resources.

A smaller working group will "take on the responsibility of creating documentation and procedures, communicating with contracted partners, and completing action items in a timely manner," Golden's report states.

The superintendent told the trustees that an application had been made to the Ministry of Education for \$50,000 to collect the necessary demographic data and that a third party would be contracted to do the work of the staff census and student census.

"We have a wonderful consultant group that we know is very experienced in this area that we know will give us some great direction and help us do some analysis of some of the data as well," he said.

The staff census is to be conducted in the winter and the student census in the fall.

The task force will meet for the first time in December.

Making way for mental health support

Director of education Wes Hahn said a process was underway to ensure that mental health support workers can get into schools, which currently have strict rules around who is allowed in, due to the coronavirus pan-

"It is not an easy time to manage as a family who is struggling or a student who is struggling and we will continue to offer those [mental health] supports and we are looking at ways ... through special education and mental health to make sure that we have a crisis support plan, if workers need to get into our schools to see students who are in crisis or need additional support, they're going to get in," he said.

Hahn said work was currently underway to make that happen and that local agencies would be contacted.

Student success continues to be high with octoblocks

Credit accumulation for the last "octoblock" was 97.7

per cent, superintendent of learning Katherine MacIver said. Secondary students have been studying in an intensive format with one class offered at a time. The intention is to keep class cohorts separate as a precaution against COVID-19. The first octoblock had a success rate of 98 per cent.

"I know someone asked what happened to the other two per cent? We've identified a couple of areas where we can provide more student support around credit accumulation," she said.

Hahn said the current model is working well for many, allowing for better connections between students and teachers and allowing for more time to see projects

"There are positives to this and certainly is helping us from an engagement point of view, a mental health point of view, there's lots of good factors to this," he said.



Collecting toys for joy

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Interact Club participated in a special festive toy drive on Saturday, Nov. 28. Volunteers accepted donations in front of what was JoAnne Sharpley's Source Source for Sports on Highland Street. Grade 12 students Logan Heaven (right) and Daniella Meraw (left) were on hand from noon until 2 p.m., accepting cash, toys, hygiene products, clothes and other items. Everything collected will be packaged into festive stockings, which will be distributed to those in need via the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank. /MIKE BAKER



Wooly winter warmth: Knitting mitts for kids

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

Gail Scott laughs when she is asked why she is getting media attention lately. "I knit mitts for kids," she says.

Not just a handful of mittens, but more

than 1,000 pairs to date over the past several years, since the Haliburton resident first heard of a Warm Hands for Christmas campaign on Canoe FM Radio that was asking for donations of mittens to be distributed to local organizations including the Haliburton 4Cs, elementary schools, SIRCH Community Services and the Pregnancy Care and Family Support

"Canoe had it on the radio about seven years ago, they needed children's mitts, for the young ones," says Scott. "So I went down to the basement, and got the wool that I could use, and I knit 67 pair."

Scott brought the fruits of her labour to the radio station, and explained it was a fun activity, but she might not be able to provide more than she had done due to the cost of wool.

"I said to Roxanne [Casey, station manager], now, don't expect me to do anymore, because I don't have any more wool and I cannot afford to be buying it," recalls Scott. "I'm a widow, I live on my own, and, you know, buying wool is not what it used to be, 50 years ago.'

Three days later, Scott says, Casey called her with a surprise.

"So I went in to her office and she said, guess what I've got for you ... She had two bags of wool. They were donated by one person and I've been knitting, well, I hit 1,000 pair of children's knits over the last seven or eight years. So that's what I do."

A knack for knitting began decades

ago, when Scott began knitting clothing for her children.

"I was expecting my first child, and my mother-in-law said to me, 'Gail, you'd better start your knitting'," says Scott. "I said, 'I don't know how'. She said, 'well,

you're going to learn'."
Leggings, zippered jackets, a hat with ties for under the chin and little mitts as well as sweaters and pullovers with pat-terns on them helped keep Scott's three children warm in handmade creations.

She says she has now been knitting over 55 years or so, on and off.

"There was a 10-year period where I don't think I knit anything, but as soon as I heard Roxanne on the radio, I just picked up my needles and it all came back to me," she says.

Now, she doesn't know how long it takes her to knit a single pair - she's a busy woman, venturing out here and there, chatting on the phone, and taking a break every once in awhile. But she

always returns to the project at hand.
"I find it very relaxing, and I'm not under pressure," she says. "I can pick up my knitting at any time. I knit my left and my right knits, right at the same time on the same needles because that way the length of the knit is the same. When you're knitting socks, it has to be the same. You've got to knit them together. You can't knit one sock and finish it off and then start the other one, because a quarter or half an inch, you don't think it's much but it is.'

Scott has already donated this year's batch of mittens - more than 250 pairs to Canoe FM, for distribution to children throughout the county, but her work con-

"I think I've got 20 pair ready for next year," she says.



Gail Scott loves to knit on her couch at her Haliburton home. She has knitted more than 1,000 pairs of mittens for local kids, using wool from her own supply and that has been donated towards her efforts. /DARREN LUM Staff FILE

CHRISTMAS COMES TO HALIBURTON VILLAGE AND IT IS TIME TO TRIM THE VILLAGE TREE

The Dysart et al Fire Department staff put up the 2020 Emmerson Christmas tree and added the Christmas lights. It is located in the Village Barn Square by vanLieshout Royal LePage Brokers.







Photo provided by the Haliburton County Echo

Photo provided by The Highlander

THE HALIBURTON LIONS AND THE HALIBURTON BIA ARE INVITING OUR CHILDREN TO HELP DECORATE **OUR TOWN TREE**



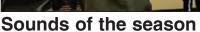
Hey Kids! Come and help make the Haliburton Christmas tree more festive by putting your own decoration on the tree.

What a great way to enjoy the holidays. You can also stop by a local store to pick up a special Christmas present for someone this year.

> **Merry Christmas and** a Happy New Year.







Stan Russell, who was joined by Tom Regina, brought some jazzy flare to the Haliburton Highlands Christmas Shindig on Nov. 28. The event raised \$41,500 for Fuel for Warmth. /Photos submitted by Hannah Sadlier



Above, Bethany Houghton joined Carl Dixon for a duet

Right, Melissa Stephens accompanied Richard Margison from the Haliburton Highlands Museum during the seventh annual Haliburton Highalnds Shindig, a fundraiser for Fuel for Warmth.



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Service delivery review recommends increased centralization

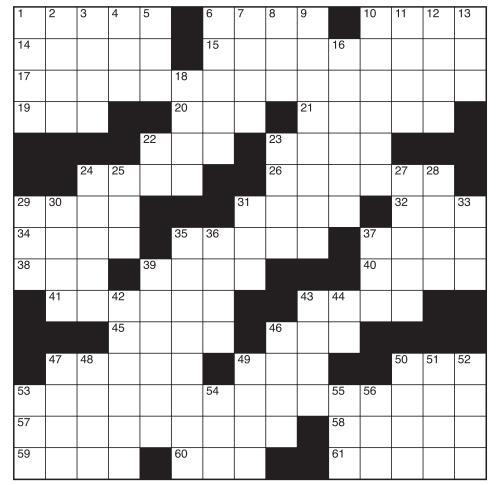
CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

The centralization of functions, harmonizing of regulations and creation of new staffing positions are repeated themes in

Crossword brought to you by





- **CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Partner to "oohed"
- 6. Relaxing places
- 10. Humorous monologue
- 14. Simple elegance
- 15. Bearable
- 17. Disobedience
- 19. Express delight
- 20. Gov't attorneys
- 21. Wake up
- 22. A type of band
- 23. Remain as is
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Battle-ax
- 29. Volcanic crater
- 31. The mother of Jesus
- 32. One's life history
- 34. "Rule, Britannia" com-
- 35. Doubles
- 37. Jacob ___, American journalist
 - 38. House pet
 - 39. S. African river
- 40 Broad sashes
- 41. Establish as a foundation
- 43. KGB double agent Aldrich
 - 45. Part of a book
 - 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Train group (abbr.)

- 50. Frames per second
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal from a federation
- 58. Guitarist sounds
- 59. Greek war god
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Helps escape

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Currency exchange charge
 - 2. River in Tuscany
 - 3. Breakfast dish
- 4. Defunct European cur-
- rency 5. Upper class young
- woman
- 6. Part of a purse
- 7. Self-contained units
- 8. Boxing's GOAT
- 9. Legislators
- 10. Flightless birds
- 11. U. of Miami's mascot is one
- 12. Floating ice
- 13. Low, marshy land
- 16. Seldom
- 18. Lyric poems
- 22. Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
- 23. Full extent of something
- Claus
- 25. Naturally occurring

solid material

- 27. Acquired brain injury behavior science (abbr.)
 - 28. Thirteen
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 30. Member of a Semitic people
- 31. One thousandth of an inch
- 33. Former CIA
- 35. Most lemony
- 36. Engage in
- 37. Small Eurasian deer 39. Provisions
- 42. All humans have them
- 43. Swiss river
- 44. Storage term (abbr.)
- 46. Famed Broadway lyricist Sammy
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Full-grown pike fish
- 49. Egyptian sun god
- 50. Flute
- 51. Flew off!
- 52. Scottish tax
- 53. Young women's asso-
- 54. Populous Brazilian
 - 55. Malaysian Isthmus 56. Pointed end of a pen
 - Answers on page 14

the plethora of recommendations contained in a service delivery review for the County of Haliburton and its four lowertier municipalities.

The county's municipal politicians – all of them, from all four townships - along with the five chief administrative officers from the county's governments received a presentation on the review from members of Toronto-based consulting firm StrategyCorp during a Zoom meeting on Nov.

Heads of council and the CAOs, who'd formed the steering committee for the project, had received a run-through of the

report a few days prior. John Matheson, a principal with the consulting firm and the founder of its municipal affairs practice group, called the 140-page document "a piece of work that could potentially provide you with several years' worth of implementation opportunities, as opposed to a take-it-orleave-it offer that you might be expected to hastily endorse. I think that's really important, because it should allow you to think about it in the way in which it's intended, which is a lot of ideas that could be of great value to the municipalities over time."

The recommendations come with accompanying timelines, spaced out for implementation between 2021 and 2026.

The county awarded the contract for the project to StrategyCorp in early March, the process somewhat delayed by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The process included more than 100 interviews and workshops with elected officials and municipal staffers, including more than 35 interviews with councillors and more than 60 interviews with staff, as well as a handful of interviews with com-

munity stakeholders. According to the document, if the recommendations therein were fully implemented, it would equate to approximately \$900,000 a year in operational and capital savings, although, as Matheson pointed out, this would not necessarily be found money, but rather money that could be redirected elsewhere to achieve better

municipal operations. "Nobody should read this as we can wave a magic wand and reduce taxes," he said. "But what we do think, is that you can get better value for money on some operations, and we do think you can use that to offset other pressures, so that you're spending it in better places.'

"We were invited to come and work with the team, to try to find better ways of doing things, and not surprisingly, when you spend this kind of effort at it, we

found some," Matheson continued.

The first phase of the project included a 235-page report with 66 "service profiles" throughout the county, and some 200 recommendations. Those recommendations were grouped into 12 high-priority categories in the final report.

"One of the things we pride ourselves on is writing reports where you have a fighting chance of wanting to implement them," Matheson said.

The 12 priorities identified in the report are: roads, bridges and drainage; fire services; waste management; co-ordinated building, septic and bylaw services; planning services; economic development; collaborative procurement; integrated digital strategy; co-ordinated legal services; human resources co-ordination; communications; and overall co-ordination.

Under roads, bridges and drainage, some recommendations included the bundling of capital projects, joint engineering contracts, as well as formalizing joint planning of road maintenance and public works planning among the four lower tiers and the county. For fire services, the report recommends integrated

training, including exploring the possibility of a joint training facility. Each of the four lower-tier municipalities operates its own fire department.

Under waste management, it's recommended that waste disposal policies be standardized across the county, so that aspects such as operating hours, tipping fees, bag limit restrictions, etc., are identical throughout the county. "Differences in policies and waste acceptance criteria was identified as a major issue across Haliburton, leading to confusion for residents, contractors and staff," the report reads. "Harmonization of policies and waste management approaches, where opportunities exist, can lead to decreased confusion and increased compliance." It also recommends joint contracts for waste dis-

For the co-ordination of building, septic and bylaw services, it was recommended that shared service agreements between the municipalities be created, or that a central service be created, where say a central staff of five inspectors would be responsible for building and septic inspections throughout the county, which consultants stressed would mean efficiencies achieved by responding to route optimization and demand, rather than abiding by municipal boundaries.

A host of recommendations are included under the planning section, including standardizing all processes and fees across the county's municipalities. It was mentioned that Minden Hills has the simplest and most straightforward preconsultation process, for example, and so one suggestion was that it become the

standard model throughout the county.
"I see excitement and willingness to explore collaboration," consultant Chris Salloum said of planning staff in the county. Another recommendation was the hiring of a junior planner to alleviate pressure on planning staff, with those costs shared by the municipalities based on working hours. One of the county's townships, Highlands East, does not have an in-house planning department, using a

planning consultant instead. Planning is a complicated field, and Matheson said the firm has done entire studies solely focused on the planning

operations of municipalities. "There's a lot more that could be done, which was outside of the scope of this

project," he said. On economic development, the report recommends the county create an economic development officer position,

something it is currently without. 'It's looking at a service increase, but it's for justified reasons," Salloum said. ... The county has a tourism service ... but the county lacks an economic develop-

ment function.' At one point, what is now the county tourism department, which focuses mainly on marketing, was the tourism and economic development department. In 2013, county council at the time decided a revamped department would focus on tourism marketing, leaving the job of economic development to the lower-tier municipalities, which have done varying degrees of economic development work over the years. "There's tremendous benefit to be realized here," Salloum said.

As for collective procurement, it's recommended a procurement specialist be hired, someone who would basically handle all of the requests for proposals and buying of goods for the county and the four municipalities. Purchasing is typically managed by department heads, and since it's a cumbersome process, would alleviate pressure on staff as well as

Report suggests in-house lawyer, communications officer

from page 14

achieve saving through collective buying, the report indicates.

Recommendations for an integrated digital strategy include sharing platforms and solutions where possible, as well as involving IT staff in a five-year planning process to eliminate the ad hoc purchase

As for co-ordinated legal services, it is recommended that an in-house barrister and solicitor be hired for the county and the townships. Currently, municipalities each contract out legal services on an asneeded basis, and the report indicates that having an in-house lawyer could save about \$70,000 a year.

Under human resource co-ordination, it's recommended the municipalities pool their employee benefits, which would lower premiums, rather than having each municipality continue to provide employee benefits in a different way. Among other recommendations is the creation of shared services agreement for cer-

Under communications, the report recommends creating a joint communications officer/grant writer position. "The Haliburton municipalities have identified gaps in their ability to deliver coordinated communications to residents," it reads. "The communication initiative would address this gap by creating a [full time equivalent employee] dedicated to communications and grant writing. This position would focus on internal and external communications support for all Haliburton municipalities. The remaining time associated with this FTE would be dedicated to grant writing. This would address both a perceived gap in countywide communications management and offset the costs of the new position through enhanced grant revenue.

Finally, under co-ordination, it's recommended that a special committee of council or inter-municipal body of some sort be created, which would focus on promoting collaborative efforts.

The report was received for information. As for next steps, Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts said she'd like to have an opportunity for Dysart council to discuss what it considers to be the top priorities. "That may be a really good idea," said Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen. Danielsen also suggested that the topic should be placed on the county council agenda as a standing item, and said she'd like to see a special county council meeting dedicated to the subject as soon as January, or February at latest. "It's one of those how do you eat an elephant type of things.

"Some of it isn't new," Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt said of the contents of the report, pointing out that the county had once had an economic development function, for example, or that Algonquin Highlands township had previously suggested the idea of a joint fire training officer. "It depends on every one of us [elected officials] to concede something for the greater good."

The \$150,000 project was funded through modernization funding from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Hous-

HHSS grad leaves colourful lasting impression on University of Windsor

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Noelle Dupret Smith said being Canadian and having Haliburton in her heart was at the foundation of the rainbow pathways recently installed at the University of Windsor as a symbol of support for the LGBTQ2+ community and of

After a little more than two years, the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School graduate in her third-year of study in social work at the University of Windsor got to see her work become a reality, visiting late last week to see the pathways and the school's president.

Before she went down she spoke to the *Echo* about the odyssey she took towards bringing the rainbow pathways comprised of the six colours of the Pride flag, along with stripes of brown and black, painted on sidewalks in two locations on campus - leading to the Welcome Centre and connecting the high-traffic path between Education Gym and Dillon Hall.

Haliburton is more than home for Dupret Smith. It is an inspiration and a touchstone for life.

There is a sense of community of people who welcome many diversities and many backgrounds and many celebrations and I think I've taken that and, especially because I've been involved in a lot of the arts in Haliburton, that it's influenced me to want to bring that sense of community and celebration for the arts as well as many other things to the campus of [the University of] Windsor," she said. Dupret Smith said although this effort

was for her final project in her first year Queer Activism class, the idea to bring a rainbow path to her school came when she saw a rainbow crosswalk while visiting Halifax during her reading week in her first of year of university.

"I just loved the feeling that it brought to the space and although you can't guarantee the space is a safe space it just made it feel safe and lively. So, I wanted to bring that same feeling on campus and we didn't have anything that represented the queer community so I thought it would

be a great addition there," she said. University president Rob Gordon, who met with Dupret Smith on her recent visit,

appreciated the work.
"We are indebted to Noelle for this wonderful way to signal to everyone that this is an inclusive place dedicated to welcoming and developing the talents of all," he said, as reported by the University of

The research for this initiative included learning about associated costs, finding a contractor and the demand for something to represent the LGBTQ2+ community on campus through on-campus and off-campus surveys. From what she knew, only University of King's College, Fleming College and McMaster University already have rainbow paths.

Then she presented the pitch to the president at the time, who gave approval. In her second year, a new president warranted new approval. Once it was approved again she proceeded collaborating with a team of administrators, working through details such as locations, whether it was on the street or on campus property, the kind of paint used.

"It was a very, very long process, especially being hands on from start to finish. It felt like a long time in addition to doing mid-terms and exams and the other projects you have to do for school," she said.

Dupret Smith acknowledges the positive effect working over the past three summers for Haliburton Sculpture Forest curator Jim Blake has had on her, and the related experience learning about making pitches and what it takes to convey the importance of art has on a community to people who may not readily accept the value of art.

However, she said this effort wouldn't be possible without the influence of her

parents.
"I have such great parents at home that have also taught me these great skills. Both my parents have been a great help, but my mom is definitely a huge influence in my life. She helps me get work done,"

Her mother Sandra Dupret Smith, who is the former dean of the Haliburton School of Art + Design and current Fleming College VP student experience, has a dozen years of experience working with administration staff and leading teams.

When she learned from her mother that the Fleming Peterborough campus was going to have a rainbow crosswalk installed she vowed at the time to have one added at her own school.

An added incentive is the role Windsor can play as the first place Americans see when they visit Canada.

"We're a border city. It's important that we reflect Canadian values," she said, referring to how the path is representative of how this country strives to be welcoming and kind to everyone.

She believes these colourful paths could be the start of an important movement.

"I don't think this crosswalk will solve all of our issues, but it's the beginning of something larger and even if it just sparks conversation and if people say, 'Hey, I want to take that course called queer

activism or I wonder if I could do a project.' I just want to ignite that idea in people," she said.

Christmas happenings and a chance to win

LOT HAS changed in the past eight months and this column ⊾is just one example of something that's different in Haliburton Village. As you may recall, the last time you read BIA in the Village, Cindy Campbell was keeping you informed on all the latest and greatest things happening in our downtown. However this fall Cindy bid farewell to Hal-

iburton and we want to thank her for all she did for the BIA and wish her well!

The BIA has been busy these past few months and has some great things lined up for the Christmas season. While we were sad there was no Santa Claus parade this year, that doesn't mean there is no cheer in the village. Actually, quite the opposite!

Our annual Buy In And Win contest is back and this year there is a wonderful

new prize to be won. Simply visit any participating business in downtown Haliburton and fill out a ballot to win \$1,500 in gift certificates for any BIA business. You can enter as often as you would like! The contest started on Nov. 20 and will end on Dec. 23, with a draw taking place at noon live on Moose FM. This annual contest is a great chance to support your downtown businesses and get all your Christmas shopping done without even having to leave the county. What could be better than that?

We are also excited to announce a fun initiative taking place this year in partnership with the Haliburton Lions Club and the BIA. The annual Christmas tree has been put up in front of the Village Barn and this year we are inviting kids and families to come out and help us decorate it by putting their own decorations on it! You can put one, two or 20 ornaments on, the more the merrier. The tree was donated by Kim Emmerson and erected by the Dysart fire department. It is graciously

allowed in front of the barn by Anthony and Juliane vanLieshout, who supply the hydro for the lights. We hope you will help us dress up our downtown and put some holiday magic on the tree.

With all the new COVID-19 protocols in place this year, the BIA executive has decided not to offer our popular Ladies Night event, to try and keep crowds to a minimum. However this does not mean there aren't great promotions happening in

our downtown businesses. We invite you to check them out, give them a call, visit their website and read the Haliburton Echo to stay informed on how you can shop safely and locally this holiday

And last but not least, the BIA is on Instagram! We will be posting information, events, town happenings and much more so give us a follow @the-haliburtonbia. You can also check us out on Facebook and if you have any questions or comments shoot us an email at haliburtonbia@mail.com.

Thanks for your ongoing support and Merry Christmas!



angelica ingram

Sweet support for Bitter Lake food drive

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

The community members of the Bitter Lake, Burdock Lake and Long Lake area are putting their hearts towards a food drive to help residents that use the Haliburton food bank.

Leading the charge is Bitter Lake retiree Deb Gibbons with husband Bill Wilson, who would rather not take any credit for the group effort of like-minded people who want to give back.

"This is a community effort. This is not a me. I don't want five minutes of fame. This comes from my heart and I wanted other people to join in on that. I can't emphasize that enough. This is not a me thing," Gibbons

She said 21 people have contributed, which has yielded hundreds of pounds of non-perishables and cash

"I'm up to 10 boxes of food in our bedroom. We cannot move and there's \$400 worth of financial donations, which I have bought food vouchers [with]," she said.

Gibbons posts updates to the Facebook page for Bitter Lake Haliburton (www.facebook.com/ groups/147579765285184), she said, to show where the

Contributors live close by and far away, from Bitter Lake and Long Lake to across the ocean in Portugal and

It's an important time for community efforts like this,

"The point is everybody is coming together as a group during this horrible time that society is going through and making yourself feel good personally because you're giving, but at the same time you're helping somebody else out," she said.

She adds there's enough challenges for some people, whether it's figuring out how to pay rent or if someone is going to remain employed.

"It's just one less thing for somebody to worry about,"

The impetus behind this charitable initiative is what the 63-year-old likes to call "my Christmas SPICE."

The letter S represents social without contact; the letter P is for physical so do something physical; the letter I stands for intellectual so think about what you're doing and why; the letter C is for being creative; and E is for emotion so what do you feel from doing this?

"It just warms my heart. I just wanted to do something and get everybody on board and do something nice and help others," she said. "I have a home. I have a husband. I have my health. Everybody around us does so let's do

The origin of SPICE comes from when she worked in child care and how they used the acronym PIE with crust, which related to the development of people -Physical, Intellectual and Emotional.

"When I thought about it I thought this is perfect. This is a perfect way to do something, but let's change it to SPICE because it's Christmas, right?"

She adds crust is representative of creativity or in the



Bitter Lake resident Bill Wilson shows how much food has already been collected the past few weeks for the Bitter Lake food drive for the Haliburton food bank. Donations have come from neighbours on the lake, Long Lake and Burdock Lake and from seasonal residents who are overseas. On Dec. 1, the food drive's 12-day advent calendar begins, providing specific items for participants to use. /DARREN LUM Staff

case of SPICE it's community.

In response to her pulling the strings to get this initiative going, she said, "I didn't have to pull hard. I didn't have to pull hard at all. It was just a blurb and the response I got was 'I'm in. I'm in. Yes, that's an easy yes. Thumbs up. You name it.' It's just continuous."

Although donations started to come for the past few weeks, this collection features a 12-day advent calendar with a specific donated item listed on each day to provide participants with a fun group effort and also provides direction for when people go shopping. It starts on

Gibbons admits the advent calendar, which is correlated to her SPICE philosophy, was an idea she saw on a social media platform

"This is perfect because nobody has to touch one another or be around one another and it's anonymous.

This is not for your 15 minutes of fame. This is not what this is all about," she said.

Gibbons said every year she and her husband attempt

to do something helpful for the community.

She appreciates any donation and adhering to the list of items on the advent calendar isn't required to partici-

The delivery of the entire collection for the food bank in Haliburton is scheduled for Dec. 15, but it may change if donations continue to grow and she runs out of room at her house, Gibbons said.

This year's reaction to her call, she said, has led to her considering it again for next year.

'It's just overwhelming. I cannot tell you how happy my heart is to see what people have done. Like 10 boxes. We're going to have to use the pick-up truck maybe twice [to deliver it]," she said.

Rotaract to roll out community scavenger hunt for local youth

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Rotaract Haliburton Highlands is organizing a special festive scavenger hunt for local youth over the Christmas

Starting this Saturday (Dec. 5), participants will have to scour the downtown area for hidden clues to complete the challenge. In total, 12 local businesses have signed up to play a part in the community scavenger hunt.

Speaking to the Echo, Rotaract member Vivian Collings said the local club wanted to "do something a little special" this holiday season to help spread the Christmas cheer and put smiles on people's faces.

"We're going to be handing out activity sheets at the otary Drive-Thru Christmas Party this explain what businesses participants will need to go to, and will also include Haliburton trivia and a colouring page," Collings said. "As a group, we're going to go around town and put up pictures of Christmas characters in the windows of participating businesses. Kids will then have to write down what character they find in

Participants that successfully complete all three stages will be entered into a draw with a chance to win a prize.

"We'll have prizes for different ages groups," Vivian said. "Right now, we have some outdoor games and activities, we have a kite, and some craft kits. Then we'll also have some stuffed animals for younger children as

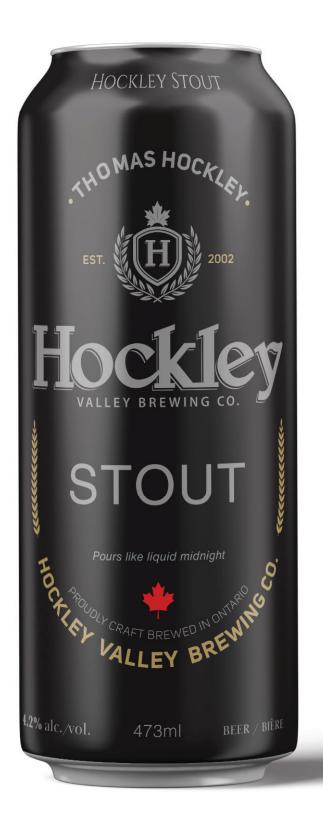
Rotaract is still a relatively new concept here in Haliburton. The local group was launched in January, and received their official charter from Rotary International in February. At present, the club boasts around 35 mem-

Rotaract Haliburton Highlands has close ties with the Rotary Club of Haliburton. As Vivian explains, "Rotaract is basically Rotary, just for younger adults." The club is made up of individuals between the ages of 18 and 30, although allowances are made on a case-by-case basis for people who want to join, but are outside of that age

We formed the group because we wanted to help out our community in any way that is needed," Collings said. "There's a big social component too – being able to build more connections with other people in our age We found there's a big gap between high-sc age people in our community and Rotarians - there really wasn't any other group in town [servicing] people our age, so we started one."

There are currently 10,698 registered Rotaract clubs in 180 countries.

The local scavenger hunt is being offered at no cost to anyone wanting to participate. Activity kits will be handed out at the Rotary Drive-Thru Christmas Party this Saturday, and will be available for pick-up at Century 21, located at 191 Highland St. To be eligible for a prize, completed activity sheets should be dropped off at Century 21, or emailed to haliburtonrotaract@gmail.com.



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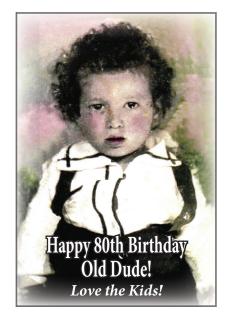
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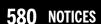
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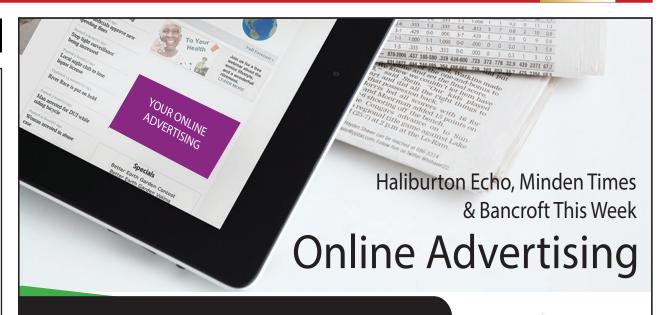
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Mathews, Benjamin Daniel Jan. 25, 1962 - Dec. 6, 1979 Beloved Son

It's not the tears the we shed at the time, That tell our hearts are broken, It's the silent tears in the after years, When your precious name is spoken. Time cannot stop the heartache, Or even stop the tears, Or take away the memories, For someone we loved so dear Those we love don't go away, They walk beside every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near, Still loved, still missed and very dear, If all the world were ours to give, We'd give it all and more, To see your loving face again, Walking through our door.

Dad and Mom



650 OBITUARIES Community



Leo Morello

(Resident of Wilberforce, Ontario)

Peacefully at Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Friday afternoon, November 20, 2020 in his 69th year. Beloved husband and best friend of Yvonne Morello (nee Horlock). Loving father of Steve (Karen), Paul and Rebecca (Rohan). Fondly remembered by his grandchildren

Kaysia, Briahna, Devon, Brandon and Leia. Dear brother of Marie (Sonny). Predeceased by his brother Tony. Also lovingly remembered by his sister-in-law Joyce and his niece Lisa (Tom) and by his great niece Adrianna and great nephew William. Leo started his career as a cook in a middle eastern restaurant in Scarborough and decided to attend the George Brown Culinary Program. Then he was offered an apprenticeship at the Wildsor Arms Hotel in Toronto. From there, Leo went to help the Chef open the Millcroft Inn in Alton, it was there that Leo and Yvonne met and fell in love. Roughly two years later, Leo was offered a Chef's position at the Deerpark Inn in Stouffville. After seven years there, both Leo & Yvonne opened a Cafe and catering business in Newmarket. After ten years had passed, they closed up the Cafe and then focused their efforts on catering for weddings and other major events. They bought their cottage property in the Haliburton Highlands with the idea of eventually retiring to the area. That dream was realized nearly seven years ago.

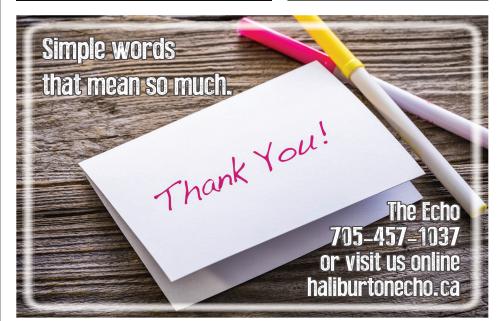
FUNERAL HOME

Private Visitation & Memorial Service

A Private Visitation & Memorial Service has taken place on Saturday November 28, 2020 at 1 p.m. As expressions of sympathy, donations to St. Margarets Anglican Church, Wilberforce and The Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME13523 Hwy #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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$oldsymbol{0}$ ur thoughts go wandering, When daylight fades. To the land of long ago. And memory paints the scenes or In the gold of the twilight glow ω e seem to see in the soft dim light The faces we loved the best, And think of them when the sun's last ray Goes down in the far offwest.



650 OBITUARIES

650 OBITUARIES



Norman Laine

(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Peacefully at Toronto General Hospital on Sunday morning, November 22, 2020 in his 84th year. Beloved husband and best friend of Doris Laine (Korbut).

Loving father of Jodie. Dear brother of Anja. Also remembered by family and his many friends. Norm started his career as a mining engineer and then became a Chartered Accountant working in Public Practice. He enjoyed squash, skiing, hiking, playing cards and most of all his family.



A Private Visitation & Funeral Service has taken place on Thursday November 26, 2020 at 2 o'clock. Âs an expression of sympathy, donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario or Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary would be appreciated by the family.

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In Loving Memory of

Richard Harold John Howard

Passed away suddenly at home in Niagara Falls on Tuesday, November 24, 2020, at the age of 64.

Dear father of Tammy, Angella (Brent), Michelle (Josh), Aimee (Curtis), Josh (Melisa), Dustin and Caleb. Loving grandfather of Alannah, Jamie, Bethany, Rylee, Isaac, Callum, Trinity, Elson, Tara,

Nic, Austin, Melanie, Ryan, Nash, Everli, Jaden, Colton, Sadie, Mikaela, Quinn, Lillianna and great grandfather of Raeya and Samantha. Dear brother of Linda, Heather, Tim, Harold, Rob and Kelly, son of the late Clarence, Joan and step-son of Eric. Fondly remembered by his family

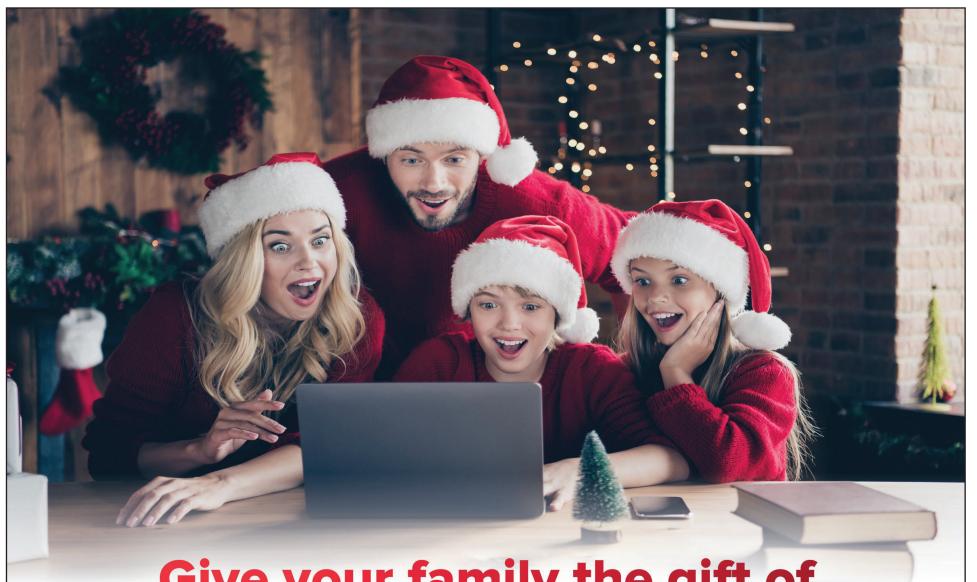
It was Richard's wish for cremation and a Celebration of Richard's Life will be held at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Hospital for Sick Children or the Ronald

McDonald House would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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HALIBURTON COUNTY ECH

AND MINDEN RECORDER

Vol. 100

No. 15

Wednesday, December 2, 1981

'The Voice of the Highlands'

16 pages

25 cents

Echo changes, adopts narrow, modern format

Echo readers will notice a significant change in the newspaper this week, and it's a change we hope you'll like.

Recently, the size of most 'broadsheet' or 'metro' newspapers has been reduced, while the Echo, and other community newspapers printed at the Muskoka Web printing plant in Bracebridge, has remained large. The extra width (34 inches as opposed to the more common 30 inches), made the newspaper difficult to handle and required up to 12 per cent more newsprint than the more modern format.

With this week's issue, the Echo has dropped one column from each page, losing two inches in width and gaining, we hope, a great deal in readability and ease of handling.

Easier to handle

The new page width will also make it easier to fit advertisements and copy together on individual pages, enabling us to produce an even cleaner, better looking newspaper than in the past. In the weeks and months to come, we will continue to try to bring you the best of news, features, advertisements, photographs and editorial comment available in the Highlands. We hope you'll agree that the new, narrower Echo is an definite improvement.



Haliburton's main street has been taking on the look of Christmas this week with the addition of decorative lighting. Here Charlie Herron connects one of the new lights.

Board sets staff

Three teachers to be hired as board adds classes required under Bill 82

The Haliburton County Board of Education will hire at least three new teachers next year to help meet the demands of Bill 82, the province's sweeping new special education legislation.

At a meeting last Tuesday, the board agreed win recommendations of its special project committee that will see teachers added at Archie Stouffer and Cardiff Elementary School, and at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

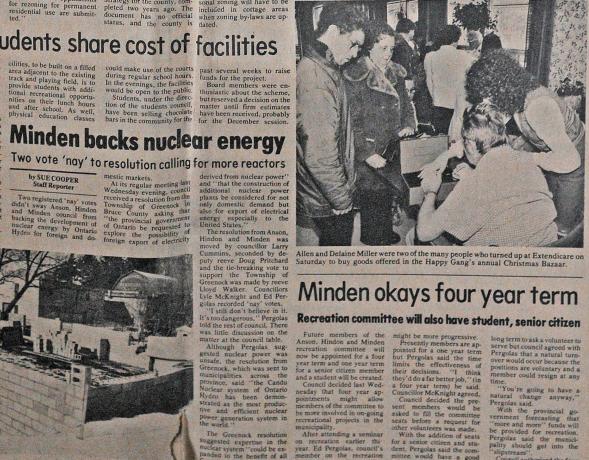
As well, the board agreed win reduced to operate Dorset and Gooderham elementary schools until at least June, 1983.

The staffing recommendations are based on projected enrolment at the various schools and on the board's efforts to phase in the special education will be seen filled to carrolment at the various schools and on the board's efforts to phase in the special education programs required under Bill 82.

At Archie Stouffer Elementary School of Street School and Cardiffing recommendations are based on projected enrolment at the various schools and on the board's efforts to phase in the special education programs required under Bill 82.

At Archie Stouffer Elementary School of Street School will remain spen until at least June, 1983, with an analysis of the school will remain open until at least June, 1983, with an analysis of the various schools and on the board's efforts to phase in the special education programs required under Bill 82.

At Archie Stouffer Elementary School of Street School will remain spen until at least June, 1983, with an analysis of the school will remain spen until at least June, 1983, with an analysis of the school will remain spen until at least June, 1983, with an analysis of the school will remain spen until at least June, 1983, with an analysis of the school will remain spen until at least June, 1983, with an analysis of the school will remain spen until at least June, 1983, with an analysis of the school will remain spen until at least June, 1983, with an analysis of the school will remain spen until at least June, 1983, with an analysis of the school will remain spen until a



Seasonal zoning guidelines saleased

Ministry eases restrictions, municipalities with official plans will benefit

policies are included in the official plan. The ministry's primary interest, when reviewing these policies, will be to ensure that the municipalities and other public agencies packground analysis. In municipalities without an official plan, however, an official plan, however, and official plan of the man future. Dysart et al is the only municipalities of the municipalities operate with zoning by-laws and official plan of the mean future. In the means future, and official plan, however, and official plan of the mean future, and official plan of the mean future. In the means future, and official plan of the mean future, and official plan of the mean future. In the means future, and official plan of the mean future, and official plan of the mean future. In the means future, and official plan of the mean future, and official plan of the mean future. In the means future, and official plan of the mean future, and official plan of the mean future. In the means future, and official plan of the mean future, and official plan of the mean future. In the means future, and official plan of the mean future, and official plan of the mean future. In the means future, and official plan of the mean future, and official plan of the mean future. In th In the past, the housing ministry required seasonal zoning in cottage areas of approved official plans. Purpose of the seasonal designation was to ensure that could not expect and could not expect and could not demand services such as snow plowing and school buses provided in other areas of the municipalities on their areas of the municipalities out. But municipal

A joint project between the Haiburton County Board of Education and students at Haiburton Highlands Secondary School is expected in improved athletic facilities at the school.

The students council has agreed to raise \$4000, this served to the policy of the students council has agreed to raise \$4000, this served to the public of the students council has agreed to raise \$4000, this served to the public of the students council has agreed to raise \$4000, this served to the public of the students council has agreed to raise \$4000, this served to the public of the students council has agreed to raise \$4000, this served to the public of the students council has agreed to raise \$4000, this served to raise and playing field, is to provide students with additional recreational opening the public of the project. Board members were entures the students at the school. The students council has agreed to raise \$4000, this served a decision on the matter until firm estimates the public of the project. Board members were entures the school of the students council has agreed to raise \$4000, this served a decision on the matter until firm estimates the public of the project. Board members were entures the school. The students council has a street and playing field, is to provide students with additional provide stude

Minden backs nuclear energy

Two vote 'nay' to resolution calling for more reactors

Melanie Hevesi cell 705.854.1000

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It's the perfect retreat! Traditional 2-bedroom, 1 bath cottage. Large lakefront deck. Stone, wood burning fireplace. Single dry boathouse with wraparound deck. 1 bunkie providing enough space for the whole family. This complete package sleeps 10 people comfortably. This property checks off all the boxes.

HIGHWAY 118 \$419,000



2-unit duplex home with a solid rental history. Main level consists of 2 bdrms, 1 bath, and large living spaces. 2 bdrm, 2 bath lower level unit with open concept living. Close to the town of West Guilford and a short drive to Haliburton Village. Large lot, perfect for entertaining outdoors. Great investment property.

WILLIAMS LANDING \$59,900



Fractional ownership is stress free! Own this fully furnished 3-bdrm, 2 bath cottage with 9 others. Bright open concept living, pine flooring and propane fireplace. Williams Landing offers 4 shared docks, sand beaches, stunning hiking trails and more. Annual maintenance fee includes everything from cottage and yard maintenance, electricity, cottage cleaning, internet, phone and more. Enjoy Kashagawigamog Lake 5 weeks of the year.

COMMERCIAL - THE LAKE VIEW MOTEL \$1,950,000



One of Haliburton's most popular Motels. The Lakeview Motel offers 14 motel rms and personal living quarters. Immaculate grounds and very well maintained buildings. Turnkey operation. Lovely inground pool, 4 hot tubs, horseshoe pit, dining room, BBQ's and much more offered to guests. Personal living guarters with 3 bdrms. 2 baths, 2 living rms and kitchen/dining area. Huge potential to expand on this 3.78-acre parcel.



VACANT LOTS



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30th Line \$69,900 4.99AC



Salerno Lake Road \$53,900 1.05AC



South Drive \$32,900 2.21AC